

**Energy and Technology Committee  
March 3, 2011 Public Hearing**

**Testimony of Sheila McCreven  
Regarding HB-6460**

Good afternoon Sen. Fonfara, Rep. Nardello, Sen. Duff, Rep. Reed and members of the Energy & Technology Committee. For the record, my name is Sheila McCreven and I live in Woodbridge where I am Chairman of the Board of Education.

The Woodbridge School District was able to take advantage of an opportunity provided by previous legislation a few years ago which enabled schools in our area to take responsibility for the Education Access channel content seen in our community on Cablevision Channel 78.

Subsequently, we received funding, through a grant administered by Cable Advisory Council for Area Two, for which we are very grateful. Without such funding we could not have gotten as far as we have toward getting our E-TV endeavor up and running, for the benefit of the educational institutions in our town and the students we serve.

I am here to testify today in favor of the bill because it is imperative, if Connecticut's local communities are to truly be served, that the local community itself creates its content. We need funding to do this, of course – but luckily this funding is being collected already. What's left is to ensure it gets where it needs to go.

PEG fees must be collected, and once collected, they must be directed to the community itself in order for local content to be developed locally. Each community is different. Each should be empowered to create content, and each should receive the appropriate share of the PEG fees collected by way of the TV/Video provider monthly bills paid by consumers in each locality.

This is the promise of PEG – community access television shines brightest when the community itself uses television to communicate, from the members of the community, to the members of the community.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.